

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 BIB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 SAM-01

SAJ-01 EB-07 IO-11 /076 W

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O P 051430Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6668

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SALZBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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VIENNA PASS SALZBURG PRIORITY

E.O.M11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: RFE ACCREDITATION TO WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES WITHDRAWN

1. INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) INFORMED RFE PERSONNEL COVERING WINTER OLYMPICS IN INNSBRUCK VIA LETTER DELIVERED YESTERDAY THAT THEY HAD UNTIL SATURDAY TO TURN IN THE DOCUMENTS ACCREDITING THEM TO THE 1976 GAMES. IOC ACTION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY COMPLAINTS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS THAT RFE CORRESPONDENTS HAD NOT RPT NOT MET ALL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION IN TIMELY MANNER.

2. IN LAST 24 HOURS, MEDIA OF SEVERAL WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES

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HAVE BEEN CARRYING REPORTS THAT IOC ACTION AGAINST RFE WAS

THE RESULT OF COMPLAINTS BY "SOCIALIST JOURNALISTS". RFE HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON THIS TOPIC.

BEGIN TEXT: "A TECHNICAL ERROR IN RFE'S APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATIONS TO COVER THE INNSBRUCK OLYMPICS MAY BE THE REASON THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THOSE ACCREDITATIONS.

"AN RFE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RADIO'S ORIGINAL APPLICATION IN 1974 WAS ADDRESSED TO THE AUSTRIAN OLYMPIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE FOUND THE APPLICATIONS IN ORDER AND GRANTED THE ACCREDITATIONS LAST SUMMER, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT BEEN FORMALLY CHanneled THROUGH THE US NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

"THE SPOKESMAN SAID EAST EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES IN INNSBRUCK HAD SEIZED ON THIS TECHNICAL OMISSION AND HAD PROTESTED TO THE IOC, DEMANDING THAT THE RFE ACCREDITATIONS BE WITHDRAWN. BROADCASTS FROM SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN RADIOS HAVE WELCOMED THE IOC MOVE AND CLAIMED THAT IT WAS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF EASTERN PROTESTS.

"RFE'S SPOKESMAN SAID DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL UNDERWAY IN INNSBRUCK AND THE ACCREDITATIONS WOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE MIDNIGHT SATURDAY. UNTIL THEN, RFE'S TEAM WOULD CONTINUE TO COVER THE GAMES AS THEY HAVE EVERY OLYMPIC EVENT SINCE 1956.

"AS FOR THE MONTREAL SUMMER GAMES LATER THIS YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID RFE'S APPLICATION HAD BEEN CORRECTLY FILED AND RFE WOULD BE ON THE SPOT COVERING THE GAMES FOR ITS LISTENERS IN EAST EUROPE." END TEXT.

3. INTERNATIONAL SPORTS PRESS ASSOCIATION AND GERMAN SPORTS PRESS ASSOCIATION HAVE LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN CHARGING THAT IOC HAS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST RFE. THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION IS REPORTEDLY PRESSING THE FRG AND THE GERMAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO CO-SIGN WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRIAN OLYMPIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE A REQUEST FOR RFE ACCREDITATION. RFE UNDERSTANDS THAT EITHER GERMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF RFE'S HOST COUNTRY, OR U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CAN SPONSOR REQUEST FOR ACCREDITATION. BEGIN FYI: RFE DID NOT RPT NOT SOLICIT FRG HELP. END FYI.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN PRESENT TREND OF EVENTS AS WELL AS

ABSENCE OF RFE REQUEST FOR OUR ASSISTANCE, BELIEVE  
DEPARTMENT AND U.S. DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS  
SHOULD NOT RPT NOT, AT LEAST AT PRESENT, INTERVENE  
IN THIS MATTER. KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER IOC MADE ITS  
DECISION ON A POLITICAL OR A TECHNICAL BASIS, I.E.,  
WHETHER RFE WAS ONLY MEDIA ORGANIZATION WHOSE APPLICA-  
TION WAS COMPLETED AFTER TECHNICAL DEADLINE.

CONGEN AND RFE HAVE NO RPT NO INFORMATKON AT PRESENT  
WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT RFE WAS SINGLED OUT. IF,  
HOWEVER, THIS TURNS OUT TO BE THE CASE, U.S. WOULD  
SEEM TO HAVE POLICY GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT TO IOC.  
PETERSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, WINTER OLYMPICS, RADIO BROADCASTING, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MUNICH00312  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760044-0264  
**From:** MUNICH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacrly.tel  
**Line Count:** 128  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <29 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RFE ACCREDITATION TO WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES WITHDRAWN  
**TAGS:** SOPN, RFE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006